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*Ueber die Auto-suggestion bei den Hypnotisirten.* N. CYBULSKI. Centralblatt f. Physiologie, No. 12.

Although cases in which hypnotic subjects can send themselves to sleep have been recorded, no special observation of the phenomenon has been made. The author observed that such subjects could hypnotize themselves at any time and entirely independently of the operator. For this purpose the subject has only to imagine for a minute or less that the operator commands him to sleep. The author, without the subject's knowledge, induced a third party (who had no influence on the subject) to propose to the hypnotic that he should imagine that a definite time after awakening he should perform a certain action or have a certain hallucination. Although the subject did not suspect that this proposal originated with the operator, he went through the suggestion in detail. Furthermore, if the subject imagines on going to sleep that he is in rapport with a certain person, even though hypnotized by his operator, he remains indifferent to the latter. From these observations the author concludes: (1). That the rapport between subject and operator is due simply to the fact that the former has the latter in mind when passing into the hypnotic state. (2). That all hypnogenic methods are at bottom only various devices for getting the subject to fix his attention upon a single concept. (3). These observations help to explain such phenomena as hypnotizing through the telephone and certain phases of so-called "telepathy." (4). That results are valid only if the subject in the waking condition had no knowledge of what it is proposed to do with him when hypnotized; if he does know it, any result whatever can be obtained. This explains what has been ascribed to the action of the magnet, and so on.

J. J.

*Magnetismus und Hypnotismus.* Eine Darstellung dieses Gebietes mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Beziehungen zwischen den mineralischen Magnetismus und dem sogenannten thierischen Magnetismus oder Hypnotismus. G. GASSMANN. 218 pp.

This volume appears in a series of manuals forming an electro-technical library, and the scientific character of its associations gives it a scientific appearance which it far from deserves. The material is indiscriminately collected from all sources; an account of a strictly scientific experiment on one page and an utterly incredible sensational (alleged) fact on the next. While denying that the magnet can do all that the mediaeval sorcerers claimed for it, the author yet holds that its influence on the body is underestimated, and that it is "an incontrovertible fact that water undergoes some change by being magnetized with the hand."

The author has invented an improved "hypnoscope" or little magnet, to be applied to the finger, and by the sensations then aroused to furnish a criterion of the hypnotizability of the subject. Two thirds of about 500 persons who tried it experienced certain peculiar sensations, and many of these were more or less ready hypnotic subjects. But the many experiments in which magnets of the greatest strength have been used in such a way as to preclude the action of the subject's imagination, without getting the slightest result, are utterly ignored. In the same way no mention is made of the experiments that show that transfers can be obtained independently of the magnet. The author assumes as a proved fact what is a

matter of extreme doubt, viz. that the magnet has an influence on the human body. He is no less shy in accepting the truth of thought transference, and believes that very sensitive subjects can be made aphasic by looking at the left side of their heads.

The useful portion of the book consists of the historical notes (not always accurate, however; e. g., it is said that Dr. Pigeaire really had a patient who earned the 3000 franc prize for clairvoyance, while the true and usual statement is that this subject refused to conform to the conditions of the Academy of Sciences); of the abstracts of some scientific papers, and the exceptionally numerous and admirable illustrations. In short, the book has an unfortunate pseudo-scientific air, and is much less reliable than some of the recent French compilations on the same subject. J. J.

*Experiments in Improving the Condition of Deaf Mutes by Hypnotism.*

Dr. BERKHAN. Berlin. klin. Wochenschr., 7 Feb., 1887.

Nine boys in a deaf mute institution in Braunschweig were hypnotized by gazing at a glass button, after their hearing had been carefully tested for a variety of noises. During the hypnosis vowels were spoken into the ears of the patients and other noises made, and they were aroused as soon as possible. The hearing of the boys was tested about half an hour later, and the process was repeated from four to six times on each boy with intervals of a week. The hearing of four of them has very greatly improved, though by no means restored, and at the time of the report the improvement had lasted about eighteen months.

*De la suggestion et de ses applications à la pédagogie.* Dr. BERILLON.

Paris, 1888, 16 pp.

This is a continuation and reinforcement of the writer's paper on the same subject in 1886. The method of putting bad children to sleep so gradually as to awaken no opposition, and by purely verbal suggestion, is first stated. The nature of the suggestion is next discussed. This must be formulated with great precision, after a careful moral diagnosis, and often repeated in a voice and manner at once authoritative and sweet. This is an art of itself, and consists in condensing to laconic brevity the moral needs of the child, with a view also to ready realizability. The child must be alone and not subject to taunts of his fellows for being subjected to the process. A number of new cures of laziness, perverse instincts, grave defects of character, nervous tics, incontinence of urine both by day and by night, menstrual irregularities, chorea and irascibility, are narrated. Bernheim endorsed these conclusions at the end of the paper, and adds that the mother's means of putting her child to sleep are the original hypnotic methods.

*Variations de la personnalité.* Docteurs H. BOURRU et P. BUROT, professeurs à l'École de Médecine de Rochefort. Paris, 1888, 314 pp.

This book begins with a more detailed study of the case of V... Louis, of multiple personality fame, whose states have been described more briefly by Camuset, du Saulle, Richer, Voisin, Ribot, and F. W. A. Myers of the English society for psychic research. This subject was born in February, 1863, of an hysterical mother and an unknown